पड़ते और वहां काफी घुमावदार चढ़ाई है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीय-राजमार्ग संख्या 33 पर उक्त तैमारा घाटी में होने वाली दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए सड़क को चौड़ा करने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी० जी० वेंकटरामन): (क) से (ग) इस स्थल पर दुर्घटनाएं होने की सूचना मिली है। ऐसा पता चला है कि ये दुर्घटनाएं मुख्यतया भारी संखया में वाहनों के कारण होती है, जो अत्यधिक ढलान को सफलतापूर्वक पार नहीं कर पाते। अल्पावधि उपाय के रूप में "पेव्ड शोल्डर्ज" के निर्माण के लिए संस्वीकृति दे दी गई है, जिनसे यातायात को राहत मिलेगी। इसके अतिरिक्त ज्यामितीय सुधारों की जांच की जा रही है।

Textile Mills in Punjab

*349. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of textile mills in Punjab;

(b) the performance of these mills during 1996-97;

(c) the number of textile mills run by the private entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, State or Central organisations, sector-wise;

(d) the number of sick or closed textile mills in the State;

(e) the number of workers rendered unemployed as a result thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) There were 37 (36 spinning and 1 composite) cotton/manmade fibre textile mills as on 31.12.96, in the State of Punjab.

(b) As per provisional figures available for the period April, 96-Jan., 1997, the production of yarn was 126.854 million kg. and of cloth 40.136 million sq. meters by these mills.

(c) The management-wise break-up of the cotton/manmade fibre textiles mills as on 31.12.96 is given below:—

Type of Management	No. of Cotton/manmade fibre textile mills in Punjab
Central Public Sector	4
Co-op. Sector	7
Private Sector	26
	37

(d) to (f) Of the above 37 mills, one mill *viz.*, M/s. JCT Ltd., Kapurthala which had 6675 workers, is reported to be lying closed since 7.1.97 on account of a strike by its workers.

M/s. Punjab Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd., Bhatinda was registered with BIFR as sick on 31.1.97. This Mill is reported to be working.

Bogus Freedom Fighters

*350. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Press reports about 4,000 bogus freedom fighters in Andhra Pradesh alone;

(b) if so, Government's estimate of the number of bogus freedom fighters all over the country;

(c) the amount being spent by the Centre and the States on all these freedom fighters in cash and kind and service in one year; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to weed out bogus freedom fighters?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (d) A press report under the caption "Fake freedom fighters thriving in Andhra" had appeared in the Hindustan Times in its issue dated 1-3-1997. According to this press report,

two functionaries of the Andhra Pradesh Freedom Fighters Organisation have alleged that there are as many as 4000 bogus freedom fighters in the State getting pension from the Government and enjoying all the perks.

The Central Government sanctions freedom fighters' pension in a case on the basis of the documents produced by the applicant and the recommendation of the concerned State Government. It is made clear in the sanction letter that pension is subject to review and can be cancelled/ modified, without any further notice, if it is established that the same was obtained on mistaken grounds or false information. Complaints received are enquired into through the concerned State Governments and their agencies, as also through the Central investigating agencies, wherever considered necessary. So far, pension has been suspended in 2886 cases and cancelled in 1316 cases. A statement indicating the position, Statewise, is enclosed.

Statement

State-wise position of suspended/cancelled cases freedom fighter pension

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of cases	
		Suspended	Cancelled
1.	Andhra Pradesh	101	4
2.	Bihar	624	180
3.	Goa	9	9
4.	Haryana	15	22
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	2
6.	Karnataka	570	261
7.	Kerala	720	61
8.	Madhya Pradesh	55	61
9.	Maharashtra	227	36
10.	Meghalaya	7	13
11.	Orissa	12	85
12.	Punjab	101	26
13.	Tamil Nadu	15	81
14.	Uttar Pradesh	228	222
15.	West Bengal	191	214
16.	Delhi	2	26
17.	Pondicherry	9	13
	TOTAL:	2886	1316

Cost-Benefit Analysis of Grain Handling by Ports

*351. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any cost-benefit analysis of the economies involved in handling grains in the Major Ports has been done; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the organisation which conducted the study?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Kandla Port Trust has obtained a Techno Economic feasibility report from the Design and Consultancy, Pune, Ministry Defence regarding construction of an additional berth with mechanised handling system for export of 1.5 million tonnes of grain per year in bulk from Kandla. No final decision has been taken yet by the Port.

Tenders for conversion of National Highway No. 8 into Four-lane Highway

*352. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of inviting tenders for converting the Ankleshwar-Mumbai stretch of National Highway No. 8 into four-lane Highway has been completed;

(b) whether tenders have since been invited;

(c) if the tenders have not been invited, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the works proposed to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) National Highway No. 8 from Ankleshwar (in Gujarat), km. 207/6 to Gujarat border, km. 381.6, has a length of about 174 kms. Out of this length,